

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hiroto Sumida, et al.

Application No.: 09/973,878

Confirmation No.:

Filed: October 11, 2001

Art Unit: 1728

For: **CONNECTING MEMBER FOR CONNECTING
CARRIER TAPES AND CARRIER TAPE
CONNECTING METHOD USING THIS
CONNECTING METHOD**

Examiner: J. Lorengo

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

A copy of each reference on PTO/SB/08 is attached.

Comments regarding the Information Disclosure Statement are attached hereto.

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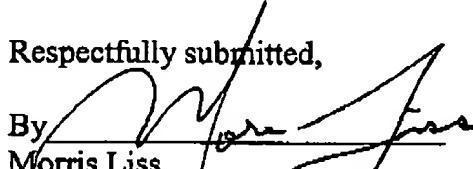
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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 20402-00635-US. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: October 2nd, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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COMMENTS REGARDING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Patent Abstracts of Japan listed in the IDS show the use of adhesive strips on a base strip for connecting carrier tapes of the type used in the present invention. However, the prior art requires a separate pin jig for aligning the carrier tapes as opposed to the inclusion of an integrated reference band as employed in the present application.

PTO/SB/DBa/b (05-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2003, OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number	09/973,878-Conf. #7078
		Filing Date	October 11, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Hiroto Sumida
		Art Unit	1728
		Examiner Name	J. Lorendo
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	
		20402-00635-US	

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 601.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

***EXAMINER:** (initial) If reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.*

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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